

TO RECLAIM THE DESERTS.

MAP OF ARID REGIONS.

Trees and Plants for the Arid and Sub-Arid Regions.

"A systematic canvass of the world will be made in the next four years to determine what tree or trees can best be made to grow in our arid and sub-arid regions," said Professor B. E. Furnow, chief of the division of forestry of the agricultural department, to your correspondent today. "While this is the particular object in view, it is likely that the search will lead to a systematic attempt by this department to introduce here and acclimatize from all parts of the world the economically valuable plants.

"The effect of trees in a dry region upon the atmospheric moisture is a somewhat disputed question. While they diminish evaporation from the soil by furnishing a shade and windbrake, the transpiration must be taken into account on the other side. The roots of a tree are drawing water from a great depth and giving it out to the atmosphere through the leaves, and yet here again this cannot help making the atmosphere more moist. But the main thing in the dry regions is to keep the soil granular, so the water can percolate it instead of running off into the rivers when any rain does fall. As soon as the people begin to plough land I believe there is an increase of moisture, although this point is disputed. It is apparent that there are now dews in places where there were none formerly, and although the change in climate will naturally be small and exceedingly slow in coming about, I believe some conquest of the arid regions is being made."—Boston Transcript.

J. W. Spear has resigned the position of city editor of the Phoenix Republican and has accepted the position of deputy clerk of the district court of Maricopa.

Influence of Natural Surroundings on Natives Shown.

In order to show the close connection between the region and the social and industrial life of the people, the department of ethnology of the National museum at Washington, D. C., has constructed a relief map in plaster, colored, to show the geological features of southwest Colorado, southern and central Utah, as far as Salt Lake, nearly all of Arizona, and New Mexico as far east as the Rio Grande extends. This area is sometimes called the arid region, also the pueblo country. It includes the territory of the cliff dwellers, cave dwellers, crater dwellers and mesa dwellers. In this region is a basin of the lower Colorado, the Little Colorado, the Gila and Rio Grande rivers.

While this territory differs from the buffalo plains on the east and coast area of California on the west greatly within itself, it also possesses a remarkable variety of its own features, so that, combined in only one pueblo region, there are half a dozen types shown by houses, pottery, basketry and modes of living. The map is marked to express these varieties. A separate court at the museum, with its galleries, will embrace the ethnical features of this map, consisting of figures and groups, models of various types of houses, and separate cases in which each special art is shown in its distribution through the arid region. When completed this map, with its accompanying exhibit, will present the best picture of a culture region to be seen in any museum in the world. In addition to the map, on all the collections there will be large labels and small ones, photographs, drawings and a small library accessible to every visitor who wishes to study along these lines.

The expenditures for Yavapai county for the year 1897 were about \$160,000.